



Bishop-elect Glen Provost
Third Bishop of Lake Charles

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LAKE CHARLES -- The Rev. Msgr. Glen John Provost, until now Pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Church in Lafayette, has been named the third Bishop of the Diocese of Lake Charles by His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI. The announcement was made Tuesday, March 6 by the Most Reverend Pietro Sambi, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, in Washington D.C. Bishop-elect Provost will be ordained and installed on Monday, April 23 in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

The Bishop-elect was introduced at a news conference Tuesday morning in the Pastoral Center of the Diocese of Lake Charles. The Rev. Msgr. Harry D. Greig, who has overseen the operations of the Diocese since June 24, 2005, introduced Southwest Louisiana's new shepherd. Msgr. Greig will continue in the role of Diocesan Administrator until the new Bishop is seated. The Diocese had been without a Bishop since March 15, 2005 when Bishop Edward K. Braxton was appointed to the Diocese of Belleville in Illinois.

Bishop-elect Provost spoke about his appointment.

"With a humble joy and obedience of a servant, I have accepted the appointment of our beloved Holy Father, Benedict XVI, to serve the Diocese of Lake Charles. I pledge to our Holy Father my loyalty and dedication in ministry of the Universal Church. While this new responsibility will offer unfamiliar challenges, I realize it is the work of Christ, the High Priest and place it all in His loving hands. God's Providence is mysterious and marvelous. In the summer of 1975, following ordination by Pope Paul VI in Rome, Bishop (Gerard) Frey assigned me to serve as associate pastor of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish in Lake Charles. I sense that the circle is complete. I am returning to the familiar and friendly city of my first assignment and to a people who exhibited such courage and perseverance in facing the full force of a destructive storm. These steadfast and strong men and women are an example to us all. I ask the sincere prayers of the Catholic faithful of the Diocese and all people of good will and assure them of my

enthusiasm in shepherding the flock entrusted to my care. May Christ reign in our hearts, now and always."

Regarding the appointment, Msgr. Greig said, "It is with Thanksgiving and Joy that I welcome Bishop-elect Glen John Provost as the Third Bishop of the Diocese of Lake Charles. We have known one another for a number of years, having both been ordained for the Diocese of Lafayette. Bishop-elect Provost brings his experience in the varied pastoral assignments he has held as well as his many talents to his leadership of the Church of Southwest Louisiana. I am confident that he will appreciate the giftedness of our community as he shepherds our Local Church with sensitivity and compassion. As we look to the future, he will build on the 27 years of our growth as a Diocese."

The Most Reverend Michael Jarrell, Bishop of Lafayette also commented on the appointment. "I am extremely pleased that the Holy Father has named Monsignor Glen Provost to be the Third Bishop of Lake Charles. In his previous assignments, Monsignor Provost has proven himself as a capable and effective pastor. I am confident he will provide the same leadership for the Catholic people of Lake Charles. I am sorry that he is leaving Lafayette, but I know that I speak for his parishioners and his fellow priests in offering congratulations and best wishes to a native son of Lafayette who has been called to another level of leadership in the Church. May the Lord prosper the work of his hands."

The Bishop-elect was born August 9, 1949 to Cyrus and Sadie Marie Blanchet Provost in Lafayette. He received a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, La., in 1971, studied at the North American College in Rome from 1971 to 1975, received a *Sacrae Theologiae Baccalureus*, or Bachelor of Sacred Theology (S.T.B.) from St. Thomas University in Rome in 1974 and continued studies for his Licentiate in Sacred Theology at St. Thomas until 1975. He also earned a Master of Arts Degree in English Literature from the University of Louisiana-

Lafayette in 1981.

Continuing education includes work at L'Institute Catholique in Paris (1972) (French language); the University of London (1980) (Victorian language); Don Quichote Institute, Salamanca (1997) (Spanish language); Instituto Santa Maria, Rome (1971) (Italian language); and Archaeological Study Tours to Syria, Jordan and Turkey.

Bishop-elect Provost was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Lafayette by Pope Paul VI on June 29, 1975 in St Peter's Basilica in Rome. Following his short term at Our Lady Queen of Heaven he served as Associate Pastor of St. Mary Magdalene in Abbeville, 1975-1983; served as Pastor of St. Leo in Roberts Cove, 1983-1985 and Pastor of St. John Cathedral, 1985-1998. The Bishop-elect was named a Chaplain to His Holiness with the title Monsignor by Pope John Paul II in 1986. He has been in his current assignment at Our Lady of Fatima since 1998.

He has served as a Judge on the Diocese of Lafayette Tribunal, 1985-present; was a member of the Diocesan School Board, 1987-1996, Vice Chairman of the Council of Priests, 2005-2006; Chairman of the Council of Priests, 1989-1991, 2006-present; Member of the Council of Priests, 2001-present; Episcopal Vicar and Dean of the West Lafayette Deanery, a Diocesan Consultant, 1991-present; and a board member of the Lafayette Catholic Service Center/Opelousas Housing Corporation, 1996-2000.

Bishop-elect Provost has also served as the Bishop's Liaison to the Legal Community, 1986-present and is an instructor in the Department of Theology for Church History, Aquinas Institute, Holy Cross College, Lafayette/New Orleans.

He is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, Galvez Chapter; the National Chaplain's Committee for the Sons of the American Revolution; a Knight of The Equestrian Order of the Knights of and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem; the Knights of Columbus; and Phi Eta Sigma Honor Fraternity.

In addition to English, the Bishop-elect speaks French, Italian and Spanish

Diocesan Youth Conference had over 300 in attendance

LAKE CHARLES -- Students in the eighth through 12th grades from schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles numbered 215 at the Diocesan Youth Conference -- "Oasis of Life: Listen, Love and Live" -- held Feb. 16-18, the weekend before the beginning of Lent. In addition 25 college students and between 80 and 90 adult volunteer staff attended at the three-day annual event.

The conference, sponsored by the Office of Youth Ministry of the Diocese of Lake Charles, always has an underlying theme, according to Milissa Thibodeaux, Director of the Office. This year's theme comes from Isaiah.

"The goal is to take the theme developed by the core team of students and process it," Thibodeaux said. "First,

it is decided what we want to say and then, what do we want the students to take with them when they leave the conference.

The Conference was the first for Thibodeaux as director of the Office although she has been to many in her Youth Ministry role at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish.

"The Core Team decided that they wanted teens to hear that it is okay to be Catholic and that they are not alone," Thibodeaux said. "God is always there, if we listen and we allow God to love us and show in our actions that we will live according to God's plan and honor the death and resurrection of Jesus."

The conference had four keynote speakers who talked about the general theme,

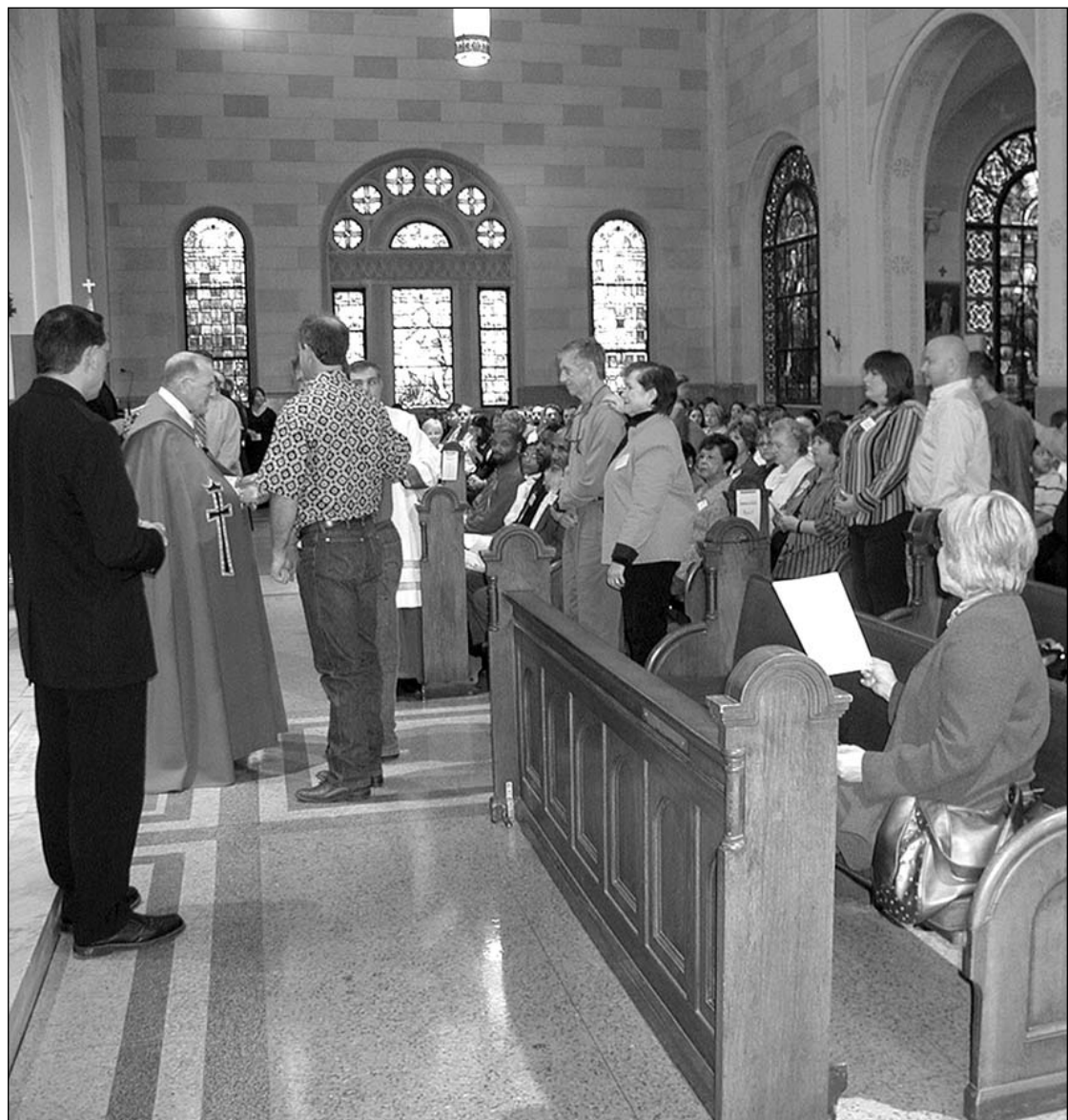
"Oasis of Life" and the three key words -- Listen, Love and Live.

"We used these keynotes to build as the weekend went along," Thibodeaux said. "There was music, praise and worship. Also, during the weekend we prayed the Rosary, a decade at a time. The Saturday workshops dealt with things that kids deal with every day, practical things.

"We ended with Mass on Sunday and Father (Marcus) Johnson (pastor of St. Raphael in Iowa) challenged the kids to take what they had experienced and apply it to their everyday life," Thibodeaux said. "He told them to make the conference come alive when they returned to their homes."



Throughout the weekend of the Diocesan Youth Conference, attendees prayed the Rosary a decade at a time. More than 300 people, including 215 eighth through 12th grade students attended the annual event, which is sponsored by the Office of Youth Ministry of the Diocese of Lake Charles.



The Rev. Msgr. Harry D. Greig, Diocesan Administrator, greets Catechumens from St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Church in Carlyss during the Rite of Election and Celebration of the Call to Continuing Conversion held on Feb. 25, the First Sunday of Lent, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. At left is the Rev. John Welch, Pastor of St. Theresa. During the celebration, the Church formally ratified the Catechumens' readiness for the Sacraments of Initiation, and the Candidates' readiness to be received into full Communion with the Catholic Church. In turn the Catechumens - from now on known as the Elect - publicly acknowledged their desire to receive the Sacraments of Initiation, and the Candidates' their desire to be received into full Communion with the Catholic Church.